

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTHERN DIVISION
No. 7:17-cv-00223-FL**

EDGE-WORKS MANUFACTURING
COMPANY, a North Carolina corporation,
Plaintiff/Counterclaim-Defendant,

v.

HSG, LLC and CTG1, LLC,
Defendant/Counterclaim-Plaintiffs

**ORDER ON MOTION TO SEAL
DOCUMENT**

ORDER

Before the Court is Plaintiff Edge-Works Manufacturing Company Unopposed Motion to Seal the Response in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for a Two Week Extension of Rule 26(a)(2)(B) Expert Witness Report Deadline (DE 106) ("Response") filed by Defendants HSG, LLC ("HSG") and CTG1, LLC ("CTG1").

Defendants' Response includes portions of testimony from Edge-Works' corporate representative relating to confidential business information that is neither relied upon by Defendants in their Response nor material to the disposition of the underlying motion for extension (DE 104). The Court therefore finds that it is appropriate to enter an order sealing the previously filed Response (DE 106). In order to minimize concerns relating to public access, the Court accepts the redacted version of the Response.

The Court has come to this conclusion mindful of the factors set forth in *Stone v. University of Maryland Medical System Corp.*, 855 F.2d. 178, (4th Cir. 1988); see also, *Ashcraft*

v. Cononco, Inc. 218 F.3d 288, 302 (4th Cir. 2000), which mandates that before entering an order to seal documents, a district court must “(1) provide public notice of the request to seal and allow interested parties a reasonable opportunity to object, (2) consider less drastic alternatives to sealing the documents, and (3) provide specific reasons and factual findings supporting its decisions to seal the documents.”

Docketing the motion to seal reasonably in advance of deciding the issue is sufficient to meet the public notice requirement. *Ashcraft; In re Knight Publishing Co.*, 743 F.2d 231, 235 (4th Cir. 1984). Additionally, by allowing Edge-Works to file a redacted version of the Response, the sealing of documents is less drastic. Moreover, since the redacted information is limited to confidential information that is not material to the disposition of this underlying motion, there is no compelling public interest to access this document.

This Court finds that Edge-Works has satisfied the standard set forth in *Stone* by publicly filing contemporaneously with this motion a redacted versions of the Response narrowly tailored to remove the confidential business information.

For these reasons, and for good cause shown, Plaintiff's Motion to Seal the previously filed Response (DE 106) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk is directed to seal the previously filed, unredacted version, of the Response (DE 106), and that document shall remain SEALED until further order of this Court.

SO ORDERED, this the 30th day of January, 2020.



HON. LOUISE W. FLANAGAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE